

Application No: 10/526,989

Amendment A

Reply to Office Action Dated October 8, 2008

Attorney Docket No: 3926.135

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0019] and [0020] of the specification *as published* as follows:

[019] In a first illustrative embodiment, a coated sheet is aligned, a scanner device is moved evenly over it and directs a laser beam onto a plurality of machining areas one after the other. The scanner device consists of a computer-controlled mirror system which is pivotable in two dimensions. The scanner device has approx. 320 mm distance to the surface of the sheet, the laser focus is situated about 20 mm before the surface. The defocusing of the laser beam produces an areal diffuse and even warming of the machining area. This results in a more even vaporization of the coating and the formation of a topographical change in the form of an evenly contoured mountain on the side of the sheet facing the laser. Following generation of the required number of topographical changes, a second sheet is supplied and aligned, whereafter the two are pressed together and welded together.

[0020] In a second illustrative embodiment, two coated sheets are aligned one above the other at a distance apart. A scanner device is moved evenly over them and directs a laser beam onto a plurality of machining areas one after the other. The scanner device consists of a computer-controlled mirror system which is pivotable in two dimensions. The scanner device has approx. 305 mm distance to the surface of a sheet, the laser focus is situated about 4-7 mm before the surface. The laser beam is guided by the scanner device in such a way that it describes about the center of its machining area a narrowing spiral. The defocusing of the laser beam produces a diffuse an-area and even warming of the machining area. As a result of the spiral movement from outer to inner, a more even formation of the topographical change on that side of the sheet facing away from the laser is realized, in the form of an evenly contoured mountain. Following generation of the required number of topographical changes, the two sheets are pressed together and welded together. The weld seam is herein guided at least over some of the topographical changes.